

NOTICE

TO: SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) GRANT APPLICANTS AND AWARD RECIPIENTS.

Prior to March 31, 1995, the Social Security Administration (SSA) was a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act of 1994, Public Law No. 103-296, enacted August 15, 1994, established SSA as an independent establishment in the Executive Branch, effective March 31, 1995. SSA's published grant regulations include 20 C.F.R. Parts 435, 437 and 438.

In view of SSA's status as an independent establishment, we request that you note the following.

1. In the SSA FEDERAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM SSA-96-BK (SSA's grant application form), PART IV ASSURANCES, All references to "Department of Health and Human Services" mean the "Social Security Administration." Also, for the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (page IV.B.), in lieu of referring to the DHHS regulations at 45 CFR Part 5b.2 and 45 CFR Part 5, please refer to the SSA regulations at 20 CFR Part 401.10 and 20 CFR Part 402, respectively.

2. On March 9, 1995, a deviation was granted by DHHS that exempted SSA from the provisions of 45 C.F.R. Part 74, Subpart F. This deviation was in effect at the time SSA became an independent establishment. Thus, the provisions of Subpart F that provide that the DHHS Departmental Appeals Board will hear appeals of final agency decisions adverse to grant recipients are not applicable to grants awarded by SSA. In the event of a dispute over a matter related to a grant, SSA will issue a final decision. There is no right of administrative appeal of a final decision adverse to the grant recipient.

3. PAYMENT PROCEDURES - Payment for all grants awarded by SSA are paid through the SSA Office of Finance. Inquiries regarding payments should be directed to:

Division of Central Accounting and Reporting
Social Security Administration
PO Box 47
Baltimore, Maryland 21235-0047
Telephone (410) 965-0021

We direct the attention of potential SSA grantees to the following statutory provisions, which are contained in SSA's appropriation language.

Public Law 106-113 Title V -- General Provisions

SEC. 503. (a) "No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress or any State legislature, except in presentation to the Congress or any State legislature itself."

SEC. 503. (b) "No part of any appropriation contained in this act shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence legislation or appropriations pending before the Congress or any State legislature."

Sec. 506. (a) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS - It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available in this Act should be American-made.

Sec. 507. When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all grantees receiving Federal funds included in this Act, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state: (1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money; (2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and (3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.